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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: UNGA PREL SENV LE IS

SUBJECT: VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND EOV FOR AGENDA ITEM 54:
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: OIL SLICK ON LEBANESE SHORES

¶1. Mission is instructed to call for a vote and vote "no" on A/C.2/62/L.21 - Oil Slick on Lebanese Shores and deliver the Explanation of Vote (EOV) in paragraph 2.

¶2. Begin EOV text:

Mr./Madam Chairperson,

The United States cannot support this resolution.

The resolution's language is one-sided and unbalanced, placing demands on one party to the conflict while failing to even acknowledge the role of those responsible for initiating the hostilities in Lebanon in July 2006. It was Hizballah that provoked the conflict with its July 12 incursion into Israel and nowhere is that fact acknowledged in this resolution.

The United States acknowledges the serious pollution resulting from the destruction of oil storage tanks in the vicinity of the Lebanese El-Jiyeh electrical power plant, and continues to support the Lebanese government in its reconstruction efforts following this conflict.

However, the Second Committee has important responsibilities and should not be used to advance one-sided and unbalanced views on this matter.

It is particularly inappropriate for the Second Committee to take a position on Israel's responsibilities regarding compensation for damage caused during the course of an armed conflict.

RICE